

Message Text

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53

ACTION AID-31

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P 231540Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6630

UNCLAS VALLETTA 0112

PASS AID/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, MT

SUBJECT: MALTA LOAN 134-K-001

REF: VALLETTA 0098

1. EMBASSY INFORMED JANUARY 23 THAT GOM TECHNICAL ADVISER JIM RIGBY IS DEPARTING FOR U.S. THIS WEEKEND TO COLLABORATE WITH MALTESE CHARGE VICTOR GAUCI IN PURCHASING A TUGBOAT. RIGBY STATES THAT A MEETING BETWEEN GAUCI, RIGBY AND AID/W OFFICIALS HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR MONDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 26.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY PLEASED THAT AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTIONS (REFTEL) HAVE BEEN ACTED UPON SO QUICKLY. RIGBY IS A KEY PROCUREMENT ADVISER TO GOM IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARSA SHIPYARD PROJECT, AS WELL AS OTHER MALTESE PROJECTS INVOLVING SHIPS AND DRYDOCKS. HE IS AN ASTUTE OBSERVER OF THE MALTA SCENE, AND THE EMBASSY HOPES THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GAUCI AND RIGBY TO MEET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH MALTA, IN ADDITION TO THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH AID/W. THE MALTA DESK OFFICER AT DOC (PAUL NORLOFF) ALSO MIGHT FIND A DISCUSSION WITH RIGBY INFORMATIVE REGARDING TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AND INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES IN MALTA. SMITH

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